

REMARKS

Initially, applicants thank the Examiner for conducting a brief telephonic interview with applicants' representative on May 23, 2011. During the interview, the Examiner conceded that McKenna '658 (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0142658) did not qualify as prior art. The McKenna '658 application was filed on December 7, 2003 — after the priority date of the instant application — but claims priority as a continuation-in-part to McKenna '923 (U.S. Patent Application No. 09/686,923 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,788,935)). However, the portion of McKenna '658 relied upon by the Examiner (Figs. 7-9) was not disclosed in the parent application. Accordingly, Figs. 7-9 of McKenna '658 are not prior art.


Claims 14-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bengault (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0087992) in view of McKenna (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0142658). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As conceded to by the Examiner and discussed above, Figs. 7-9 of McKenna '658 do not qualify as prior art. Accordingly, claims 14-31 are allowable due at least to the Examiner's failure to provide *prima facie* support for the outstanding rejection.

In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **246472009900**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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